## "Breaking free from bondage" 2 Corinthians 10:1-5

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:1:2

Two reasons why we take the battle for the mind seriously:

- 1. God does know what you think
- 2. We become what we think

"As a man thinks in his heart, so is he." Proverbs 23:7

Principle: <u>Thoughts</u> lead to <u>feelings</u> which lead to <u>actions</u> which can lead to a <u>stronghold</u> or bondage in our lives.

"Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace." Romans 8:5, 6

"For the sinful nature desires what is contrary to the Spirit and the Spirit what is contrary to the sinful nature. They are in conflict with each other, so that you do not do what you want." Galatians 5:17

How to recognize a stronghold:

- 1. They are <u>stubborn</u>
- 2. They are irrational
- 3. They are <u>uncontrollable</u>
- 4. They are counter productive

What are some of the strongholds we deal with?

- 1. Substance addiction
- 2. Relationships
- 3. Past events
- 4. Attitudes
- Thought life

"When the Lord your God brings you into the land you are entering to possess and drives out before you many nations – the Hittites, Girgashites, Amorites, Canaanites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites, seven nations larger and stronger than you – and when the Lord your God has delivered them over to you and you have defeated them, then you must destroy them totally. Make no treaty with them, and show them no mercy." Deuteronomy 7:1, 2

Seven spirits still in the world today:

1. Hittites – spirit of anger and violence

- 2. Girgashites spirit of idolatry
- 3. Amorites spirit of pride and boasting
- 4. Caananites spirit of depression
- 5. Perizzites spirit of apathy
- 6. Hivites spirit of control
- 7. Jebusites spirit of <u>weariness</u>

How can you win the battle for your mind?

1. We are to live our lives from the inside out.

"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." Romans 12:2

2. We are to prepare our minds for <u>action</u>.

"Therefore, prepare you minds for actions; be self-controlled; set your hope fully on the grace to be given you when Jesus Christ is revealed." 1 Peter 1:13

3. We are to take every thought <u>captive</u> in obedience to Christ.

"We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ." 2 Corinthians 10:5

"And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." Mark 6:11

"They make their tongues as sharp as a serpent's the poison of vipers is on their lips" Psalms 140:3

"No weapon forged against you will prevail, and you will refute every tongue that accuses you." Isaiah." Isaiah 54:17

"He who rejects you rejects me." Luke 10:16

4. We are to turn to God in <u>prayer</u>

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable – if anything is excellent or praiseworthy – think about such things." Philippians 4:6, 7